

CD NO.

~~COUNTRY~~ Czechoslovakia

DATE DISR. 10 October 1951

**SUBJECT** Organization of the Ministry of National Security (MNS) in Czechoslovakia

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

**7 CRITICAL SECURITY REASONS**  
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1. Since the creation of the Ministry of National Security (Ministerstvo narodni bezpecnosti - MNB), the security apparatus of Czechoslovakia has been organized precisely along Soviet lines. Direct Soviet assistance in the reorganization is provided by the permanent Soviet security mission in Prague, which simultaneously controls the activity of the entire Ministry and the reliability of the security apparatus.

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2. The head of the entire security apparatus is the Minister of National Security, Ladislav KOPRIVA. KOPRIVA is a member of the Central Committee and Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC). 50X1-HUM

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Liaison between the Ministry and the security apparatus is carried on by his personal cabinet as well as by his two principal deputies. These functions are at present not filled, since the arrest of SNB General PAVEL and Karel SVAB, from the special secret section of the security service. The function of deputy for the SNB, STB (civilian plainclothes) and the people's Militia is temporarily being filled by SNB Colonel Ernest HOFMAN. HOFMAN was formerly the leader of President GOTTWALD's personal bodyguard.

5. The work of the second deputy of the Minister for the special secret section of the security service (defensive and offensive intelligence) is temporarily being done by a third deputy, (fnu) NUN, who has so far had only the internal job of Cadre deputy for the MNB. These jobs also represent the division of the entire MNB into its two main parts:

- a) The public security service - the SNB, STB, and People's Militia;
- b) The special secret security service - defensive and offensive intelligence.

6. Recently the Frontier Guard (Pohranicni straz - PS) has also been placed under the public Security service, having been placed by law on a level with the Army, but under the MNB. The highest direct official of this sector of the security service is the supreme commander of the Frontier Guard; he is directly responsible to the Minister, but does not have the authority of a deputy minister, to whose orders he is subordinate. This job was held by General PAVEL for a short time after he was removed from the position of deputy minister; since PAVEL's arrest no successor has yet been named.

7. The cabinet of the Minister has no exclusive authority, but is an auxiliary control organ of the Minister in order that he may be informed on everything that takes place in the entire security service. The members of the cabinet do not have ranks as is the case among the members of the other parts of the apparatus as well as the Ministry. Members of the cabinet are (fnu) ZEMAN, Chief of the Cabinet and (fnu) KOTRCH, the personal secretary of the Minister. The personal secretary of the Minister for liaison with the Soviet security mission is Mrs. Frantisek NEXASKOVA, a Russian woman from Moscow, a functionary of the Komsomol, and the wife of the head of the cultural section of the office of the President, Frantisek NECASEK.

8. The public security service of the MNB is divided into four main groups, of which the STB group is divided into two independent departments.

- a. SNB (National Security Corps), the uniformed police
- b. STB (State Security), the plainclothes police
  - (1) Criminal department
  - (2) Political security department
- c. People's Militia, plainclothes workers' formations
- d. Frontier Guard.

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9. The central management of the SNB is in the MNB. The supreme commander is the Minister, and the executive supreme commander the deputy Minister, with the rank of MNB general. The uniformed SNB section which comprises the bodyguard of the President is a separate component, led by an SNB colonel.

10. The entire security apparatus of the SNB is divided, as the country is, into country, (kraj), district, (okres), and department, (obvod), organizations; each of these has its own SNB command which is part of the SNB hierarchy. The supreme command of the SNB maintains this hierarchy but it has the right, at its own discretion, to make contact directly with any subordinate command without going through channels. Each subordinate command has this same right, except that it must report later to its superior command. Following the Soviet example, the lowest organizationally independent unit has recently been introduced into the security apparatus; this is the so-called "ward" (OKRSEK) referent, subordinate to the "obvod" command. This OKRSEK referent is to have in the future precise and detailed records on only a very small sector in his area; he is to be informed on all inhabitants down to the smallest detail and is to follow their activities. For this purpose he is in contact with the local organizations of the KSC and individual party cell confidants are to be his informers. In addition to these informers, however, the OKRSEK referents are to build another independent network of confidants from among the local citizens who do not belong to the KSC. The network of confidants of the SNB has been constructed and to a considerable extent exists at all OBVOD commands of the SNB. There is another, horizontal control through the activities of the individual SNB commands in the form of the institution of security referents of the National Committees on all levels, which at the same time preserves publicly the participation and control of the people's administration through the security service, as required by law. Actually, however, the security referents of the National Committees are auxiliary control components of the MNB.

11. SNB personnel are especially trained for SNB service, both professionally and politically. The confidants then take special courses. The standard training of the regulars is carried out in special training camps with the assistance and supervision of Soviet experts. The training resembles military training, and the SNB personnel are exempted from ordinary civilian military duty (the same applies to MNB personnel, who are given special training). Great emphasis is placed in the SNB on constant political guidance in all units, and the SNB has its own corps of so-called "enlightenment officers" (like the army) whose duties resemble those of the political commissar in the Soviet security service and army.

12. SNB personnel are formally divided into two groups. The first group -- designated by red facings on their uniforms -- are directly under the MNB or SNB; the second group -- designated by blue facings -- are formally attached to KRAJ headquarters. Actually, however, they are all under the central command. This formal distinction is regarded as a means of maintaining the appearance of authority of the National Committees. The practical significance of the distinction, however, lies in the fact that the units designated by blue facings belong to the so-called SNB transport and traffic groups. The SNB so far has had only one general -- Josef PAVEL -- and only two colonels -- one is Leopold HOFMANN. The commander of the bodyguard of the President of the Republic is, temporarily, since HOFMANN's transfer to the MNB, his former deputy, SNB Major E. BLACKOUT.

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13. Passport matters, which by law have up to now been under the jurisdiction of the KRAJ National Committees and the KRAJ Headquarters of the SNB, are now exclusively under the MNB, and the task of the KRAJ National Committees and the KRAJ Headquarters of the SNB is only formal; they function only as an intermediary between the party and the MNB.

14. The STB - State Security -- is the name of the so-called secret, plain-clothes security service. Its members undergo SNB training, and they are, properly speaking, SNB personnel temporarily attached to the STB. Their functions are only executive, and they are subordinate through their commanding officers to the other, special, secret sector of the MNB -- with whose members, however, they have no direct contact and practically no acquaintance.

15. The First Department of the STB is the Criminal Department. It has been organized and staffed up to now by the old method. No particular importance or attention is given it, because it is a non-political sector. It is concerned with murders, thefts, and other criminal offenses. Its members, among whom only the lightest of purges have been carried out because of their skill with only those being discharged who were politically intolerable because of political activity or past allegiance, are recruited mainly from the old criminal police from the First Republic and the Protectorate. One of the leading experts in this department is the High Commissioner, Dr. Leopold DRTINA. He was the leading Czech criminal expert even before the war. The activity of this part of the security apparatus is also quite unknown, because today no criminal cases are made public. The department however has a broadcast time at its disposal early each morning, on which they transmit the so-called security reports and announcements for individual stations and SNB and STB headquarters.

16. The Political Security Department of the STB has an entirely different mission. It performs the function of the old secret police to a considerable extent, but its powers are very limited compared to theirs and it accordingly amounts today to a merely executive organ. Its members are all new people, accepted since the war under new rules, and a large part of them have been replaced since February 1948. In addition to SNB training they go through another special schooling for STB service. Their unit organization is just like that of the SNB units in uniform, in which personnel are also recruited by the selection method. The STB also has a network of its own informers and collaborators among the population. Their executive function consists partly in their own work in the STB field and partly in supplementary projects for the special secret sector of the MNB -- the defense. The main peculiar function of this component of the STB consists of guarding leading state and Party officials (bodyguard and escort for ministers, dignitaries of the Communist Party, etc.), maintaining security measures on special occasions (important official and unofficial visits from abroad, domestic and international meetings and conferences, etc.). Another primary function is the guarding of important places and places which foreigners visit, and surveillance of politically suspicious persons and their activities, especially those who have foreign contacts. This involves participation with the public, in mass projects, meetings, etc. Their people often perform the same function in public places, restaurants, bars, and hotels are waiters or other personnel. Women, especially young and attractive girls, work in this sector, being used for the most varied tasks, often of a provocative nature. In part, especially in regard to checking foreigners and dealings with them, this function of the STB comes under the heading of supplementary activities for the special secret defense sector of the MNB. Further

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supplementary activities are surveillance of employees of western representative offices in Prague and people frequenting these offices, carrying on provocative activity, and, finally, making arrests, which the employees of the special sector never do themselves.

17. STB members are designated by numbers and not names, except for their leaders and commanders. They have SNB-STB identification papers with their number and proof of membership in the STB. Five-pointed metal stars with engraved numbers, which they wore on a chain in their pants pockets, were eliminated about a year ago and replaced by these identification papers with an embossed seal.

18. Captain VALA is in charge of independent STB activities, and Captain CECH of all matters coming primarily under the heading of cooperation with the special secret defense department. VALA's deputy is Second Lieutenant SOUKUP and CECH's is First Lieutenant MACHACEK. VALA's direct phone on the so-called VLTAVA telephone network -- special -- was 3710.

19. The People's Militia are armed, plain-clothes security units stationed in all the larger industrial plants. Their original function was patterned after revolutionary militias in Russia to maintain the security of industrial plants. This domestic function, however, has been completely changed, and today they supplement the security and SNB units. Throughout the present reorganization of People's Militias the main emphasis is placed on political reliability in selection of personnel. It is especially because more and more jobs are falling to the lot of the People's Militia outside the factories, from the jurisdiction of the regular security, that their members have permission to carry firearms and if necessary can act in public with the authority of an SNB man. There are also women in the People's Militias who go through special training along with members of the SNB women's unit. The status of women in the SNB, STB, and the People's Militias is equivalent to that of men.

20. The central authority is the SNB supreme command, and the jurisdiction of the factory councils and committees of the Communist Party in industrial enterprises is almost entirely a matter of form. The security referent of a given plant is in charge of the People's Militia in the plant. He is an MNB confidant and has a large network of informers built up in the plant after the fashion of an SNB OKRSEK referent. Also, non-members of the Communist Party are strongly represented among his informers, in order that the network may be as secret as possible. His job, officially, is to watch over the security of the plant and its personnel and, with their help, to guard against damage, primarily sabotage, but actually he is more concerned with watching the activities and attitude of the workers and eliminating disturbing elements. Not the least of his tasks is to create an atmosphere of fear and consequent docility and obedience. The Security referents are appointed today almost exclusively from the ranks of SNB or STB members. Old referents who have remained from among the factory workers get special training.

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21. The Frontier Guard is a new unit of the security service, organized on the Soviet model. By law it was made equivalent to the Army, but it comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of National Security. As contrasted with the old Financial Frontier Guard its duties are mainly political. Its members are exempted from ordinary civilian military service, or, if they are selected for service in the Frontier Guard they can perform their military service in this way. The units of the Frontier Guard undergo special military training, which is supplemented by SNB training and special border training. They wear military uniforms with green facings and a metal dog's head. For border duty they have now been provided with specially trained border dogs — German wolfhounds. The commander in chief of the Frontier Guard has not yet been appointed. Until his arrest SNB General Pavel was commander.

22. The overall complement of the SNB, STB, the People's Militias, and the Frontier Guard is now estimated at 400,000. All these outfits have a military character, and if necessary can be immediately transferred as trained units to the army. They accordingly constitute, unofficially, a part of the armed forces of the Republic.

23. The second sector of the MNB is the special secret security and intelligence service.\*\*\* It is divided into two departments, the defensive intelligence security department, and the offensive intelligence department. The present head of the defensive department is unknown. Until his arrest last year Osvald ZAVODSKY was head. The telephone numbers on the secret Vltava telephone network were: office of the chief — 3900; residence — 3901. Gábor VALES was head of the offensive department until his arrest in February 1951. Jiri SINDELAR was VALES' deputy until his dismissal in the fall of 1950. The present head is unknown.

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24. The defensive department is divided into a large number of sections according to the purpose of their work. There is one section for anti-sabotage work, another for eliminating terrorist groups, another for hunting out and eliminating illegal political organizations, another for surveillance of the activity of foreigners and foreign diplomatic officers in Prague, etc. The section responsible for activity of foreigners (surveillance section) [ ] has charge of records and checking of all foreigners in Czechoslovak territory, their contacts, activities, etc. In charge of the section, until his arrest in February 1951, was Major Vladimir (Kurt) SMOLKA, originally a sculptor by profession. SMOLKA had been working in the security apparatus since the end of the war, first in the County (KRAJ) Committee of National Security and the Provincial Security Department, and then in the Ministry of the Interior.

His present successor is (fnu) PIXA, \*\*\*\* promoted to major after his appointment to SMOLKA's post, formerly a referent of this section. The official telephone number, on the Vltava network, is 4976. PIXA's deputy is Captain (fnu) SULG, also a former referent of this section; he succeeded to the position of Captain Vlastimil KROUPA, formerly deputy to SMOLKA. KROUPA was transferred to active service in the uniformed SNB after SMOLKA's arrest.

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25. The Surveillance section had its personnel in many government offices. In the protocol department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs they are Zdenek HLAS, and later Jarin HOSEK and Gennadij VETENGL. The chief of diplomatic protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Engineer Jiri CHALUPA, collaborates closely with this section; after the war he worked in the Provincial Security Department. These men were greatly interested in the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to which foreigners came. For all visits and meetings, even official ones, between employees and foreigners, a written report in duplicate, with a detailed analysis of the entire conversation including questions and answers, had to be given to this section of the MNB through the cadre section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This section also has its permanent service in the doorkeepers' room and in the corridors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its jurisdiction also included the checking of employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; therefore it was in constant contact with the cadre section, and it had and has today an entire network of informers and confidants among the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Fnu) IRA from this section of the MNB (telephone 096 - line 422) was designated for liaison with the cadre section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This section worked on all actions undertaken against representative offices, their employees, and foreigners living in Prague. According to an explicit order of the President of the Republic at the beginning of 1950, all these actions must be carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with its approval, in order to prevent any diplomatic conflicts.

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This section also collaborated in the preparation of all so-called large trials, in matters involving the cooperation of the accused with foreign countries. It also worked on the Field case; Osvald ZAVODSKY, then the chief of this section, worked on this case personally.

26. In regard to working methods, these are not the same in all cases. In some cases the surveillance section has actual evidence at its disposal; then the case is utilized for political and propaganda purposes, in cooperation with other interested authorities. In other cases the procedure is the opposite. In a case where political action is necessary against a certain western state either through the employees of its representative office in Prague or through its citizens living in Czechoslovakia, either in regard to reciprocity or independent action, this section is charged with obtaining the necessary evidence. In such cases, if the required material is not available to the section, it must be prepared or obtained. Then the section usually resorts to provocation, with the aid of its network and collaborators. Sometimes, even after such an attempt, the actual evidence or compromising material is very questionable; in such cases the matter is not analyzed in detail in public, and an explanation of the reasons for the step is avoided.

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27. The network of collaborators of this section is very extensive, and it covers all central offices and other organizations which come into contact with foreigners. The MNB has its confidants in the Ministry of Information; in the press section there is Dr. (fnu) POPPER (former CTK correspondent in Berlin); in the cabinet of the minister, M. REINEROVA (now chief of the secretariat of the World Committee of Partisans of Peace, which has been transferred to Prague); the chief of Section IV (fnu) KRATOCHVIL and his deputy St. VILLOVSKA; and (fnu) MANDELOVA

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At the Ministry of Foreign Trade the main confidant is the Deputy Minister, Dr. Rudolf MARGOLIUS; in the cadre section, V. HAVELKA and the deputy section chief for the West, Frantisek LANDA. The MNB also has its informers in CEDOK (Czech Travel Bureau), (fnu) NOGOL and (fnu) KOSETOVEC; in the state restaurant and hotel sector (fnu) VALENTA and (fnu) KUBIAS and others. The network in CEDOK has the purpose of providing the section in advance with information on intended trips of foreigners to Czechoslovakia and to foreign countries, in so far as they use the services of CEDOK for travelling.

28. In regard to informers of the defensive intelligence department abroad

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they rely mostly on employees of Czechoslovak representative offices and on the network of the offensive department. The employees of representative offices submit reports primarily about the conduct of their fellow workers in the office, the activity of the office, foreign visits, etc. They also submit reports on the activity of Czechoslovak emigres, in so far as they have or can obtain information on this subject. Liaison with foreign countries is conducted by the same route as the liaison of the offensive department, whose activity overlaps that of the defensive department in this sect

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33. The main permanent link between the MNB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the MNB employee (fnu) SPACEK. More important matters are discussed between the leaders of the offensive department of the MNB and the cadre deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or directly with Minister SIROKY. Only SPACEK has remained from the old liaison between the MNB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among the less important MNB officials in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is Milan HOSEK.

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There is also (fnu) ROLO,\*\*\*\*\* who recently worked as private secretary to VALES, and who remained in the department even after the removal of VALES; before that he worked in the Ministry of the Interior with SINDELAR and Zdenek TOMAN. There are also (fnu) VEJVODA and (fnu) KIRCHNER, who worked in the field of the cooperation between domestic illegal political groups and foreign countries. These last named men, together with SINDELAR attended the foreign policy and diplomatic school of the Central Committee of the KSC. Among them was also Jiri WEHLE, who until autumn of 1949 was an important official in this department of the MNB; due to his Trotskyist past, however, he was transferred to the department of People's Administration of the Ministry of the Interior, and later he was dismissed altogether from government service. His wife used to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from which she was dismissed this year. With the exception of SINDELAR, none of these people went abroad, except on trips to the Soviet Zone of Austria and even to Vienna (VETENGL, Milan HOSEK). HOSEK also collaborated in the case of VAVRA-STARIK and his abduction to Czechoslovakia.

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34. Of the newer people, Jarin HOSEK is again playing a rather important role in this department. After the rupture with ZAVODSKY and VALES he transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he worked for a while in the passport and visa department and finally in the diplomatic protocol department together with VETENGL; he and VETENGL have now returned to the MNB. Another employee of the MNB (then still the Ministry of the Interior) was [redacted]

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[redacted] Dr. Ervin MUNK, who was transferred to the Ministry of Justice and who is now a government prosecutor; there is also Stefan KUBIK, [redacted]

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now the KRAJ commander of the SNB and STB in Zilina, Slovakia. 50X1-HUM

35. Among other departments of the special secret sector of the intelligence security service, there is an independent department for following Trotskyist activity, as well as Yugoslav politics and propaganda activity. This department is headed by Captain (fnu) TOMEK [redacted]

[redacted] This department also cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which procures abroad the material which the former requests. This department also cooperates closely with the defensive and offensive department, and uses its network. Its interest particularly concerns the activity of the so-called Fourth International, its adherents, publications, periodicals, etc. It has accurate records of all Trotskyists, and it follows their movements. Today, however, greater emphasis, from their viewpoint, is placed on following Yugoslav political and propaganda activity abroad. They follow very carefully the so-called Titoist manifestations and speeches in certain western Communist parties [redacted]

[redacted] In this sector they cooperate directly with the Soviet mission, evidently under its direct supervision. This department is interested in absolutely everything concerning Yugoslavia. Now, together with so-called experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is processing the so-called Tito's White Book on Yugoslavia and its relations with the USSR during and after the war. The task of this department is not of a purely security nature; its primary significance is in the ideological struggle against Trotskyism and Titoism. TOMEK personally took part in the investigation of the case of Evzen KLINGER, a former section chief of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was expelled from the KSC before the war for Trotskyist deviation and who was arrested in September 1949. It was ascertained that KLINGER had been in contact with certain Trotskyists and their close followers abroad. The granting by KLINGER of a visa to Alexander WERTH for a visit to Czechoslovakia also played a part; it caused considerable consternation at the time in Czechoslovak political circles, and for a long time it was impossible to decide how to react to it. 50X1-HUM

36. The last department of this special secret sector of the MNB is the passport and visa department, which is now the only deciding authority for granting entry visas to foreigners and passports and exit permits to Czechoslovak citizens. It cooperates with all the rest of the security apparatus. Instructions for the granting of a visa may now be made (and only through this department) only by the Presidium of the Party, or by one of its members with the knowledge of the chief of the cadre department and through the security department of the Party (Kohler - Synkova). The same is true of the issuance of passports and exit permits. All current passports and permits (unless it is a question of an order of the Presidium of the Party, which applies almost exclusively to Party leaders) are decided upon by special commissions (there were several of them), whose composition is constantly changing. The principle today is to approve only the most limited and most necessary number. Authority to decide on visas, passports, and exit permits was recently taken away from the Ministry of National Defense.

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(where General REICIN previously retained authority) and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [redacted] even in regard to diplomatic passports of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and government leaders. The only exception permitted in regard to granting visas is in the case of all heads of representative offices or their immediate deputies; they can, on their own authority and without previous consultation with Prague, grant visas only to Party leaders at the special written request of the local Communist Party, which must be personally signed by one of its firmly established representatives. [redacted]

[redacted] This provision also applies to the people's democracies, 50X1-HUM with the exception of official visits. In some countries where the internal situation in the Communist Party is not completely firm and clear [redacted] the head of the representative 50X1-HUM office does not have this authority. 50X1-HUM

37. Completely different instructions apply to the USSR, where visas are almost always decided on by the embassy in Moscow at the suggestion of Soviet authorities, without the control of Prague. Soviet influence is also decisive in passport matters. There were instances in which certain experts were refused passports even at the request and recommendation of their responsible ministers. The passports were immediately issued, however, after the intervention of the Soviet mission, which had an interest in the making of such a trip.

38. For a long time [redacted] the passport and 50X1-HUM visa department was under the charge of Dr. Jaroslav BROZ, who, however, did not have decisive authority but only executive authority. His deputy was (fnu) SEMEK. [redacted] Outside 50X1-HUM intervention can be exercised only through the so-called intervention office headed by (fnu) DUKAT. 50X1-HUM

39. The passport and visa department is the only one separated from the headquarters of the special secret sector of the MNB. It is located near the central building of the Ministry of the Interior and the MNB on the Trida Obrancu Miru. The headquarters of the special secret sector is located in buildings on Uralske Namesti in Dejvice and in adjoining streets. The employees of the special secret sector and leading officials of the MNB live mostly in modern homes opposite the Letenska Plan in the vicinity of the Sparta stadium in Letna. PAVEL, VALES and SMOLKA used to live here; KROUPA, ROLO, and others live here now.

40. [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted]  
the appropriate referents and the chiefs of the secret sector who are working on a case participate in the interrogations. (SMOLKA was present at interrogations very often). [redacted] the interrogations are conducted mostly by the Soviet method of political persuasion. [redacted]

[redacted] in certain cases [redacted] the accused spoke so coherently before the court, and with the terminology of the new political vocabulary, which was not characteristic of them [redacted]

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\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: It is possible that these are cover names - a general practice in the MNB; however, ZEMAN may possibly be identical with Dr. Eyzen ZEMAN (real name: ACKERMAN) a former Ministry of Interior official [REDACTED]

\*\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: Information on the organization and activities of this sector of the MNB is not fully detailed due to the degree of secrecy employed. [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: This is presumably Camil PIXA who was in the parallel section of Departments III of the Ministry of Interior.

\*\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: This is presumably Vlastimil ROLLO, a member of the STB when it was under the jurisdiction of Department III of the Ministry of Interior.

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